

In the claims:

Cancel all claims without prejudice.

Add the following claims:

6. A candle filter element for assembly in a pressurized container, the candle filter element comprising a support body disposed around a central tube with a closed surface, over which a filter cloth is stretched, said support body being formed as a hexa-lobed sheath element which has a surface provided with openings, and said surface of the sheath element being described by semi-circles.

7. A candle filter element as defined in claim 6, wherein said openings are formed in circles.

8. A candle filter element as defined in claim 6, wherein said openings are formed as slits.

9. A candle filter element as defined in claim 8, wherein said openings are formed as said slits forming an angle of less 100° with an axis of said sheath element.